

From: nali065@uottawa.ca
Subject: Discussion from yesterday
Date: Thu, 20 December, 2012 6:19 pm
To: "Gordon Robertson" <dger@uottawa.ca>, "Gholamreza Rouhi" <grouhi@uottawa.ca>

Dr. Robertson and Dr. Rouhi:

After consulting both of you regarding the issue that I may fail my PhD, I think it is healthy for me to express my feelings. I ask you for your patience and empathy at this time. Despite five years of dedicated hard work, I am again under immense stress and put in a position of uncertainty about my future. I can only ask why this is happening.

I spent the last five years working day and night, month after month, year after year, devoted to my thesis and undertaking this effort with minimal help or guidance. Despite this, little was done to develop a relationship or my thesis. Furthermore, I felt that you were not convinced of my research which has been reflected in minimal motivation and mentorship.

As well, the last five years I was forced to deal with numerous situations during my studies like the present, such as, the comprehensive exam, thesis proposal, thesis, numerous professors staying and then leaving my committee, being kicked out of my office, unfair and unwarranted treatment by professors, unfounded accusations etc. I was at the receiving end of all this and I was the one who went through the pain to fix and deal with this. When will this stop? Presently, I stand to lose everything.

I am very tired and extremely stressed. I do not feel confident that your letter to the Dean will alter his decision. Further, given my input to the letter was not solicited, I thought it was important to voice my concerns in my own letter so as to save myself. This I am sure you will understand. I spent immense time writing a letter - just like I did in the past for my comprehensive exam and thesis proposal defense - to convince the dean that I've earned my PhD degree and the publications/thesis to date validates this.

Moving Forward:

Given my recent discussion with Dr. Robertson, he assured me that he has a strategy moving forward. Although I do not know about your strategy, I am entrusting you to resolve this problem. I will do as you advised and entrust my life in your hands by letting you take control and manage this situation. On this note, I will not be sending my letter to Dr. Hastings as you have instructed. I will inform Dr. Hastings that I have entrusted my advisors to resolve this challenge. I would be very grateful for any feedback, guidance and insights you have to help me obtain my PhD.

Sincerely,

Nicholas
